

plaining the great inconvenience I suffered by their detention. To this I received a polite reply; but the drawings being still withheld, I went, in company with one of the members of the committee, to the room, and took possession.

The drawings, when I was there ten days ago, were hanging just as I had seen them seven months before, with this addition, there were lines stretched across the room over its whole area, as if it had been metamorphosed into a laundry! The windows were wide open, and shirts, sheets, and architectural drawings were hanging out to dry! How often our poor perspectives had been damped and dried I know not; but had poor Sidney Smith seen them, he would have entered into a facetious calculation as to the number of washings they had endured. Once a fortnight, he would have said, is not too often to indulge in laundry; and so $7 \times 2 = 14$ would have been the result.

When I had taken down and rinsed my wretched-looking bit of stationery, I discovered a large hole burnt in its very centre! a round hole with a halo of variegated scorch! I bethought me that the committee had peradventure, in some excess of past anxiety, ironed out my drawing, and so completed the process.

Sidney Smith, when he was injured, rebuked by a joke and pointed a moral. I think I may venture to deduce from the foregoing facts, some advice profitable to our brethren. To those who have drawings at Camden Town I would say, "Run and get them; for whilst I write they may be in *abduction*;" and to those who desire to join in future competitions I would add (with a desire to save their hopes and drawings from a dumper), "Frame and glaze your designs."

I inclose my card as a voucher for the truth of these statements, and am, Sir, yours, &c.,
Portsmouth, Dec. 10, 1845. C. W. F.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COL- LATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The "Arcades of Italy" and the Squares of London.—It hardly needs repeating, what is recognized now-a-days by all sensible men, viz. that we moderns are very much behind the ancients and even mediævals, in most things connected with the structural of public and private works. Look (to point again at one thing) at the arcades of those mediæval Italian—aye, and even larger Belgian and Bohemian cities! We build sheltered walks (saloons, greenhouses, &c.) for our own individual and personal benefit—they did it for the convenience of all.* Thus Goethe says very truly, that Italian democracy went so far as even to erect halls so huge, that they resemble a market-place hemmed in and covered in by walls—such for instance, that splendid structure, the *Salone of the Procurazia* at Padua. There, and under the shelter of those mile-long arcades of Italian cities—met every one who chose, the noble and the citizen, the lawyer, physician, and artisan; all being thus combined, not into the lump of levelling equality, but the wise equality of a family; gradations pre-ordained by Omnipotence. If such plans were required and deemed most essential in mediæval Europe—how much more with us! These athletic personages, unscathed by exorbitant luxuries, ailments, and maladies without end; moreover, under the serene sky of Italy, mild sun and balmy air—we, a nation of patients, with a northern sun who rarely deigns to look at these lands. We moderns, however, imagine and project many things—which have only one defect, viz., they are rarely effectable. Thus, a plan has been mooted of late to overspread all (or at least many) streets of London with transparent arcades or galleries. The thing is absolutely impossible—considering the flood of people who circulate even in such spacious streets as the Strand, Oxford-street, &c.; on which account not only mere foot-passengers, but also persons carrying more or less bulky burdens, or even beams, rods of iron, &c., are to be taken into consideration. Fancy all these hemmed in within the narrow limits of an arcade! Why, the most bondless democracy of the middle ages never dreamed of such convenience for the mass of the people—because it is impossible.

* In Padua, not only the squares or piazzas, but almost all streets are arcaded.

There is a fact necessarily to be taken into account on the present occasion—viz. that one-tenth of our population, at least, are *subterranean*—the dwellers in the areas, *cul-de-sacs*, the cellars; although the New Building Act has, very properly, curtailed the number of London moles and hedgehogs. And thus it would be required to preserve the present footpath (*trottoir*), and on the inner side erect those arcades—still transparent, as not to encroach at all on the ground-floor and area dwellers. The appliance of cast-iron pillars, stone pedestals, and (duty-free) glass panes, would make the whole an exceedingly convenient, wholesome, and tidy concern—invaluable for the invalid, and any one, who, by adequate free-air exercise and sociableness, even during our constant bad weather, wishes to escape the being numbered within this category. Plenty of free-air exercise would soon procure room for (the fewer number of) patients in the Free Hospital.

Naples.—We have been favoured with a sight of the work presented to the members of the late Scientific Congress, of which but a few copies have reached this country. It is entitled, "Descrizione dei Luoghi celebri di Napoli, e sue Vicinità" (1845, 2 vols. 4to.). It is published by order of the king, and contains a very deep-wrought description of the public edifices, monuments, &c. of the above capital. A list prefixed to the work contains the names of the different contributors, according to the different branches—as public edifices of the middle ages, art, and the like. It is illustrated by lithographs, representing the most important sights of Naples, which, although not masterpieces of execution, are respectable.

The Embellishments of Paris.—This notice could be almost stereotyped, just putting new heads here and there, as there seems, indeed, an energetic system at work, to make Paris the metropolis of modern architecture and art. The works for the building of the library of St. Geneviève, under the direction of Mr. Labrousse, architect, were so actively progressed with last season, that the façade on the street des Sept-Voies is completed. As the cold season approaches, and for the sake of protecting the blocks from the ravages of the frost, those not yet worked in have been capped with straw. Chelles-street will entirely disappear, and form an avenue common to the two colleges of St. Louis and St. Barbe, the approaches to which will be improved by the widening. The places around the Pantheon will also very soon be enlarged, and the owners of houses are already treated with for their property. From these, the alignment will be made towards the new library St. Geneviève.

Preparations for the Monument of Napoleon in the Invalides.—It is now decided, that the tomb of the Emperor will be surrounded by statues of twelve of his marshals. They will be colossal, and executed after the portraits and busts existing in the various art museums, and symmetrically placed around the imperial catafalque, thus to form a sort of funeral pageant around the monument. Government has just purchased twelve huge blocks of white marble, which are lying in the vicinity of Leghorn, and which are to be conveyed to Paris by water, for being employed for the sculpturing of the above colossal statues.—*Journal des Débats.*

Prizes for virtuous acts—awarded by the French Institute.—After the revolution of 1830, the French went, for a time, in the train of Ideality—to which sentiment we may ascribe the addition of a department of moral and political science to their Royal Academy of Literature, and the establishment of the above prizes; the latter cavilled at, still an acknowledgment for the artisan and other servants, tempted into acts of magnanimity. Mr. Dupin, president of the R. A., had to speak on the distribution of these prizes. He stated, that it was not the province of the Academy to decide on the doctrinal merit of good actions, and that it had endeavoured to reward actions, considered virtuous according to all codes of morality. The prizes consisted in sums, and medals of the amount, of 3,000 fr. (120*l.*), 2,000, 1,500, and several of 500 francs.—*Journal des Débats.*

Meeting of the "Society of Encouragement," at Paris. 26th Nov. Mr. Dumas in the chair.—This is one of the minor, yet very useful societies of the French metropolis, to be compared with our Society of Arts.—The artisan well at Monndorf (Luxembourg) was first ad-

verted to, whose extraordinary low expense (vide *BUILDER*, p. 559) bids fair to make such wells exceedingly numerous in every part of Europe.—Princess Galitzin has sent to the society 1,000 francs, for preparing a prize on a monetary unity, more expedient than the high English pound, and the French centime.—Mr. Norel exhibited a new apparatus of domestic heating, which consists in a lining of the chimney by a range of reflecting bricks. Mr. S. believes, that in burning coke, a saving of 60 per cent. on the present expense of domestic fires might be effected.—Dr. Boucherie read a paper on the artificial preservation of timber for railway purposes, by the means of chemical injections. Dr. B. states his experiments to be confirmed by a test of three years. The most important is, that, while hitherto merely oak was used in the construction of rails, Dr. B. says that inferior timber can be prepared by his process to do the same service.

Remedies against Pauperism.—This sort of national disease begins to attract much of public attention, and the matter of parliamentary discussion in several of the chambers in Germany. The following heads, adverted to in some of the late debates in Mecklenburg, seem to be worthy of notice:—Cultivation of all available soil in the most approved and scientific way; the undertaking of all and every sort of public works; an universal diffusion of a sound, practical education, and the publishing of practical tracts on material as well as moral topics; gymnastic schools (!) and public playgrounds; savings' banks—even in minor towns and less peopled localities; temperance societies; emigration.—*Allgemeine Zeitung.*

Progress of Art-movement in Prussia.—A great number of artists, many of them first rate, have addressed a memorial to the Secretary of State for Public Instruction, drawing his Excellency's attention to the inadequate patronage bestowed on the arts in Prussia; and pointing, especially, at the backward state of monumental painting (*fresco, encaustic or stercographic*) of the Prussian metropolis, compared with Paris and Munich. Mr. Eichhorn has received the memorial with extreme politeness, seemingly well pleased with the opportunity thus given to him, to bring this important subject under the notice of the king and the Council of State, in which a number of architects and other artists and literati have a seat. J. L.—v.

MERIT IN HUMBLE LIFE NOT TO BE DISREGARDED.

SIR,—I find in THE BUILDER of last Saturday week, the article sent by me, and inserted by you in THE BUILDER of the 15th Nov. has at last been noticed by one of your correspondents, Mr. T. B. Lawrence, who, after referring to the case of ventilation so successfully adopted by an obscure country individual, requests to be informed by "A Working Bricklayer," what is the nature of the plan, which, he observes, at present appears somewhat doubtful. In reply, I beg leave to inform the gentleman, that the obscure country individual and the "Working Bricklayer" are one and the same person, and that after the opinion of an eminent M.D. was given, and rejected for its absurdity, the opinion of the "Working Bricklayer" was asked. He gave it; his system was adopted, and though more than six years have passed away, yet not one case of either fever or small-pox has occurred in the building, though in the town where it is situated scarlet fever has been very prevalent lately, and many have died. I cannot exactly understand whether Mr. L. means the plan is somewhat doubtful, or the success of the plan. If he means the latter, I can have testimonials from the most influential gentlemen in this town and vicinity. If he means the nature of the plan, it certainly was not stated by me what the plan or system was; nor do I intend it at present for the following reasons. Having known for some years a simple, yet certain, method of destroying the black damp, or as it is called, carbonic acid gas, in wells, vaults, rats, &c., I gave publicity to it; the first time was after the loss of two or three lives in a grave in Aldgate churchyard. I wrote to the editor of the *Globe* or *Sun* newspaper, I forget which, an article in order to prevent similar accidents. When the fatal accident happened at Barclay's brewery, about two years ago,